(घ) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

खान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बलराम सिंह यादव) : (क) मध्य प्रदेश में खान मंत्रालय के प्रशासनिक नियंत्रण मे सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों की कोई भी खनन परियोजना कार्यान्वयन के लिये लम्बित नहीं है । इसलिए परियोजना पर अधिक लागत का प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

(ख) से (ङ) प्रश्न नही उठता ।

Tussle over simulator project

2948. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the 'Financial Express' of the 21st October, 1994 under the caption 'Sail Tisco tussle over simulator project';

(b) if so, the current status of its installation;

(c) the details of the casting simulator cum pilot plant together with the state of technology, country of import, capacity, purpose of installation, specific benefits to the Plant at which it is proposed to be installed or already installed, and the general benefits to the Steel Plants;

(d) whether the benefits will also accrue to the private sector Steel Plants;

(e) which are the mini steel plants selected for the assistance and what were the criteria and modalities for selection; and

(f) what are the details of the amount of Rupees 100 crore lying with scrapped Steel Development Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In view of the importance of continuous casting technology for steel industry in India, the need for a "Pilot Plant cum-simulator for continuous casting" has been under study for quite sometime. The Science Advisory Committee attached to Ministry of Steel had examined the proposal received from Technology Information Forecasting & Assessment Council (TIFAC) and on the recommendations of the Science Advisory Committee attached to the Ministry of Steel, a Committee of Experts has been constituted by the Ministry of Steel in January 1995 to examine the pilot plant projects proposed in the light of related advantages to the Steel Industry. The report of this Committee is expected shortly. The proposed pilot plant will be useful to steel industry towards technology development efforts in the area of continuous casting. The benefits will be mainly in the form of improved process optimisation which could lead to higher productivity, energy savings as well as development of different grades of steel through continuous casting. It is envisaged that the benefits for such a pilot plant would accrue to the steel industry in general both for the public and the private sector. The other details including location are being examined by the Expert Committee.

(e) No mini Steel plant has yet been selected for assistance. The Science Advisory Committee attached to Ministry of Steel has approved the proposal presented by Metallurgical & Engg. Consultants (India) Limited, on behalf of Technology Information Forecasting & Assessment Council (TIFAC) for taking up a study on "Energy Efficiency Improvement in Secondary Steel Sector". The study envisaged, among other items identification of around 15 mini steel plants

for technology development towards achieving higher energy efficiency.

(f) The Steel Development Fund levy was discontinued with effect from 21/22.4.1994. However, the SDF has not been scrapped. The Joint Plant Committee continues to be responsible for the management and operation of the Corpus of the Steel Development Fund and interest received and accrued thereon, under the directions of Steel Development Fund Managing Committee. The total SDF loans outstanding against the main producers as on 31.3.1994 amounts to about Rs. 5009 crores.

Revised collaboration and technology transfer agreement by MSTC & FSNL with M|s. HARSCO

2949. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation (MSTC) and Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited (FSNL) propose to revise the collaboration-cum-technology transfer agreement with M/s. Harsco;

(b) if so, for how long this proposal has been pending, reasons for pendency and by when the agreement is likely to be revised;

(c) what are the salient features and the specific advantages of the proposed revised agreement; and

(d) the loss suffered due to non conclusion of the revised agreement in terms of its inability to fully exploit the potentials of recovery and processing of scrap from slag and refuse dumps of the public sector plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Discussions have been in progress with M/s. Harsco from 1992 for revision of the existing collaboration agreement between MSTC and HARSCO and to enter into a separate technology transfer agreement between FSNL and HARSCO. This would facilitate the transfer of latest technology from HARSCO to FSNL. However, it has not been possible to reach an agreement so far.

(d) FSNL's operations under the existing collaboration agreement have remained profitable.

Pollution management norms in SAIL

2950. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prescribed pollution / environment management norms are being complied with at different facilities of SAIL and VSP, for example, in the raw material handling complex, sinter plants, basic oxygen furnaces, continuous casting plants, rolling mills, water treatment plants etc;

(b) if not, the pollution levels at such facilities vis-a-vis the prescribed levels and effect of the same on the environment and the ecology; and

(c) what measures have been taken or proposed to be taken to conform to the prescribed levels of pollution at such facilities and the time frame by which the laid down norms are to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) In the case of SAIL, the effluent and ambient air quality from all the steel plants are within the norms. Regarding stack emissions, most of the shops are within the norms and specific projects are under implementation to bring the balance stacks also within norms. In the case of V.S.P., the stipulations laid down by the Department of